

**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR
DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**

Attorney Docket Number 11983.0008

First Named Inventor Robert Fritzinger

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number

Filing Date March 26, 2001

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

☒ Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing **OR** ☐ Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16(e)) required)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Virtual Telephone

the specification of which (Title of the Invention)

☒ is attached hereto
OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) [] as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number [] and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) [] (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application (Numbers)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

DECLARATION - Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)
09/057,681	04/09/98	

☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

☐ Customer Number
OR



Place Customer
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☒ Registered practitioner's name/registration number listed below

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
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DECLARATION**ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)**

Supplemental Sheet

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THE CLAIMS

1. In a communication system comprising at least one telephone switch and at least one communication device: a virtual phone generic configurable interface between said telephone switch and said communication device to serve as a protocol interpreter of the protocol of said telephone switch and to convert the protocol of said telephone switch and the protocols of applications associated with the operation of said switch and said communication device into a common format to enable communication between said telephone switch and said communication device.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein said virtual phone generic configurable interface includes a set of virtual phone data structures to represent the state of a phone as known to the telephone switch at any given time.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein said virtual phone generic configurable interface includes a virtual phone application program interface to provide data communication between said telephone switch and said communication device.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein said virtual phone generic configurable interface includes a component to provide a communications protocol for the transfer of phone control information between said telephone switch and said communication device.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein said virtual phone generic configurable interface comprises:

a) a set of virtual phone data structures to represent the state of a phone as known to the telephone switch at any given time; and

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b) a program interface to access said data structures.

6. A system according to claim 5, wherein said program interface to access said data structures comprises a virtual phone application program interface to provide data communication between said set of virtual phone data structures and said switch and said communication device.

7. In a telephone communication system comprising at least one telephone switch, at least one telephone and a computer to process applications related to the operation of said telephone switch and said telephone: a virtual phone generic configurable interface to serve as a protocol interpreter between protocols of said telephone switch and protocols of said applications to convert the protocols of said telephone switch and the protocols of said applications into a common format to enable communication between said telephone switch and said telephone.

8. A system according to claim 7, wherein said virtual phone generic interface comprises:

a) a set of virtual phone data structures to represent the state of a phone as known to the telephone switch at any given time;

b) a program interface to access said data structures; and

c) a protocol to establish communication between said computer and said data structures.

9. A system according to claim 8, wherein said program interface to access said data structures comprises:

a) an internal virtual phone application program interface to provide data communication between said set of

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virtual phone data structures and said telephone switch and said telephone; and

b) an external virtual phone application program interface to provide data communication between said set of virtual phone data structures and said computer.

10. A system according to claim 9, further including a communications protocol to provide communication between said external virtual phone application program interface and said computer.

15. A method for providing communication in a system comprising at least one telephone switch and at least one communication device, said method comprising:

a) providing a virtual phone generic configurable interface to serve as a protocol interpreter of the protocol of said telephone switch; and

b) utilizing said virtual phone generic configurable interface to convert the protocol of said telephone switch and the protocols of applications associated with the operation of said telephone switch and said communication device into a common format to enable communication between said telephone switch and said communication device.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein said providing a virtual phone generic configurable interface comprises providing a set of virtual phone data structures for representing the state of a phone as known to the telephone switch at any given time.

17. A method according to claim 15, wherein said providing a virtual phone generic configurable interface comprises providing a virtual phone application program

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interface for providing data communication between said telephone switch and said communication device.

18. A method according to claim 15, wherein said providing a virtual phone generic configurable interface comprises:

a) providing a set of virtual phone data structures for representing the state of a phone as known to the telephone switch at any given time; and

b) providing a program interface for accessing said structures.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein said providing a program interface for accessing said data structures comprises providing a virtual phone application program interface for providing data communication between said set of virtual phone data structures and said switch and said communication device.

29. In a communication system comprising at least one communication switch and at least one communication device: a media control proxy to serve as a gateway between said communication switch and said communication device to bridge any gap in communication protocols between said communication switch and said communication device and to convert said communication protocols to a common format to enable communication between said communication switch and said communication device.

30. A system according to claim 29, wherein said media control proxy includes a component to convert a fixed control protocol of an original connection between said communication switch and said communication device to a communications method for supporting any given communication device.

31. A system according to claim 29, wherein a first data bearer channel and a first control channel each are connected to said communication switch and to said media control proxy and a second data bearer channel and a second control channel are connected to said media control proxy and to said communication device.

32. A system according to claim 31, wherein said media control proxy includes a component to pass through data on said first and second data bearer channels.

33. A system according to claim 31, wherein said media control proxy includes a processor to process information on said first and second control channels for conversion to a protocol understood by said communications device.

34. A method for providing communication in a system comprising at least one communication switch and at least one communication device, said method comprising:

a) providing a media control proxy to serve as a gateway between said communication switch and said communication device to bridge any gap in communication protocols between said communication switch and said communication device and to convert said communication protocols to a common format; and

b) utilizing said media control proxy to enable communication between said communication switch and said communication device.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein said providing a media control proxy comprises connecting a fixed control protocol of an original connection between said communication switch and said communication device to a

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communications method for supporting any given communication device.

36. A method according to claim 34, wherein said providing a media control proxy comprises passing through bearer channel data between said communication switch and said communication device.

37. A method according to claim 34, wherein said providing a media control proxy comprises processing control information from said communication switch for conversion to a protocol understood by said communication device.

38. A method according to claim 34, wherein said providing a media control proxy comprises interpreting control information received from said communication switch and maintaining the state of the communication device as defined by the communication switch.

39. A method according to claim 34, wherein said providing a media control proxy comprises transmitting data to said communication switch on a control channel between said media control proxy and said communication switch in a protocol native to said communication switch so that said communication switch interprets a message from said media control proxy as a message from said communication device.